

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MAY 19, 2009

On April 23, a number of students at La Mesa Junior High School became ill after drinking bottled water purchased from a campus vending machine. The response and investigation into this incident were complicated by a series of miscommunications and lack of a clear protocol for the coordination and management of the laboratory testing process. The response involved agencies from multiple jurisdictions, including Los Angeles County Fire, Sheriff, Public Health, and Agriculture. While all of these departments appear to have performed appropriately, there was a general lack of clear direction and coordination related to the performance of necessary lab testing.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to work with the appropriate departments to establish a protocol for the management of laboratory testing of any suspicious substances, to ensure better coordination of such investigations and report back to the Board in 14 days. This should consider the role of non-County agencies in the testing process. The protocol should include the identification of a lead agency for such events, whose responsibility should, at a minimum, include:

1. Establishing a list of the specific testing capabilities of all agencies that may be involved in conducting lab tests
2. A protocol for the management of testing that includes a process for identifying:
 - a. Which tests are to be conducted
 - b. Which agency is most appropriate and capable of conducting the required tests
 - c. How the findings of the lab tests are communicated back to the lead agency

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Ridley-Thomas _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Antonovich _____

Knabe _____